

entertained for his talents and his labours; and forms a very interesting record of fugitive essays on archaeological subjects that have come before the public during the past year, antiquarian investigations, and published works. The various articles are arranged under the heads, — primeval antiquities, mediæval antiquities, ecclesiastical architecture (chiefly notices of old churches and restorations), and bibliography. There are not many original communications, but these may be expected to increase in ensuing volumes when the publication is known. The principal papers are those which were read at the Canterbury meeting of the Archaeological Association; a meeting which has led to more writing and printing than could possibly have been anticipated by those who projected and arranged it.

We shall be glad to learn that the "Antiquarian and Architectural Year Book" has had a large sale.

Correspondence.

JURISDICTION OF OFFICIAL REFEREES AND CONSTRUCTION OF SCHEDULE (E) AS TO PROJECTIONS.

SIR,—In accordance with my promise to continue the discussion of this subject, I would first, to supply an *hiatus* in my last letter, set out the *furn* of notice from the district surveyor, issued in consequence of an application from him to the official referees: "That the said works were not a sufficient commencement prior to the 1st day of January, 1845, to take them out of the operation of the Metropolitan Building Act, 7 & 8 Vict.; and that, in the event of your proceeding therewith without giving me such notice as is required by the aforesaid Act, the said work will be liable to be abated as a nuisance."

Here is a palpable recognition of a "commencement," and where is the authority to define the extent of it? more especially, as stated in my last letter, the "commencement" having been made upon admitted legal notice under the former Act. The ground of complaint to the official referees, upon which by their decision the summons was issued (a copy of which was sent to the party complained of), also raised the question of the proposed buildings being in contravention of sect. E as to projections. The official referees upon this ground of complaint issue, or sanction the district surveyor issuing his summons, and, with a plan of the *locus in quo* before them, evidently admit the operation of sect. E, as restraining buildings from projecting before the general line of buildings in any street: with this impression (signified in the same summons), that under the new Act no such buildings could be erected, it would appear to be a *force* to complain "of your proceeding therewith without giving me due notice, as is required by the aforesaid Act," which brings us to the discussion of schedule E as relating to projections. The ground of complaint by the district surveyor to the official referees being thus: "and, lastly, the whole are *projected* buildings beyond the general line of the fronts of the houses, viz. being 29 feet before those already erected in Princes place, *vide* plan, and contrary to the said schedule E." The history of the matter is this:—Princes-place, as stated, is 29 feet from the public road, then comes a vacant piece of ground on which these five fourth-rate houses are commenced, and then another row of houses in a line with Princes-place. The information to the referees states that the intended houses commenced next the road have a return wall 24 feet deep, or 5 feet short of the front of the above-mentioned houses.

The heading of the clause in the Act is, "Projected buildings beyond the general line of buildings, and from other external walls;" it will be perceived in the above quoted information to the official referees, that the district surveyor has quoted the words of this recital, without pursuing the inquiry as to what the enactment was, viz.: "And with regard to buildings already built or hereafter to be re-built, as to bow windows or other projections of any kind."

The words here used seem clearly to define that what was contemplated as to projections related only "to buildings already built or hereafter to be rebuilt;" and then follows, "Such projections must neither be built with, nor be added to any buildings or any face of an external wall thereof, so as to extend beyond the general line of the fronts of the houses." Using the term projection in its ordinary sense (not claiming the limitation of the above clause), would imply buildings proceeding from, and not, as in this case, being commenced at, the edge of the road actually advancing in progress towards the general line of the houses in the street. After the great deliberation that was given to the subject, many sessions passing over before the bill was in a condition to become an Act, it would be injustice to the framers of it to imagine that other than the common sense reading of the above extract was their intention. Had the intention been that which the district surveyor assumes, sanctioned by the referees, it is impossible to imagine that the talent engaged in the preparation of the Act could have lost sight of the few words that, suggested in parenthesis; in addition to the existing enactment, would have made the matter thoroughly intelligible.

"And with regard to buildings already built or hereafter to be rebuilt, as to bow windows or other projections of any kind" (and *with regard to buildings hereafter to be built*) "such projections must neither be built with, nor be added to, any (such) building on any face of an external wall thereof" (and *no new building shall be erected*) "so as to extend beyond the general line of the fronts of the houses, &c."

It would also appear, that to any new buildings now or hereafter erected, at a future period, projections might be made thereto "beyond the general line of the front of the houses," as not being controlled by the words "buildings already built or hereafter to be rebuilt."

A most important point presents itself for discussion, as to the extent of application of the large equitable powers intrusted to the referees, which would appear to have been intrusted to them to accommodate the Act to peculiar cases not precisely met by any positive direction, and not to be applied in contravention of a special enactment. I shall be glad to induce the opinion of some of your correspondents learned in the law upon a case thus circumstanced, in which I am now professionally concerned, by putting the facts before them in a subsequent letter.—Your obedient servant,
GREENWAY ROBINS, Architect.
22nd Feb. 1845.

SALE OF ARCHITECTURAL PRINTS AND DRAWINGS.

SIR,—I read the letter of a member of the Association of Architectural Draughtsmen in your last number with pleasure, and am glad to find that they are looking forward to the establishment of a separate and distinct exhibition of architectural drawings and a museum.

In the first volume of *THE BUILDER* I ventured to offer a few suggestions to this society with every feeling of respect, and am now about to make a proposition, which I trust, will be received by them in the same spirit.

I am very fond of the study of architecture, and in my leisure hours can enjoy the luxury of being possessed, if only for a time, of a good engraving or drawing, and having but small means, as is the case with many of my class, I find some difficulty in supplying my wants for contemplation and study. I allude to the great difficulty found by young men who are anxious to obtain information from such sources, their being no place in London where architectural prints can be obtained in any great variety or quantity, therefore beg to call the attention of the above society to the consideration of the following plan:—

If they have an exhibition of architecture, they must have a large room, I therefore propose that they establish a *depôt for the sale and purchase of prints and drawings* of all styles of architecture, and every art and trade connected with it. With regard to myself, I often buy engravings, &c., that may strike me as having some peculiar effect, a door or window, or other feature which I may introduce into a design or sketch to advantage, or some place I may have visited or be about to do so, and when I have made such use of it, would be

glad to dispose of the same at a cheap rate, or exchange it for others, consequently should find such an establishment very acceptable. Working drawings of buildings actually executed, machinery, furniture, &c., however rough and dirty, would be useful and readily purchased by those requiring such in their early studies, and again, after being copied, find their way back for the use of new comers, at a very trifling cost to all parties; nothing should be refused; and this plan will offer the opportunity to young artists to send their drawings for sale, and bring their names before the public; assist them greatly in obtaining employment, and induce them, when taking sketches from the actual buildings, to make them more accurate, as the sketches will become valuable to those who have not been there, and sell for a small sum.

The plan of management would be simple, and might be arranged as follows:—each party sending a drawing or print for sale would write the name and price at the back, inclosing a letter with his name and address, which would be kept private; after being numbered, it would be entered in one book open to the public; and when sold, struck out and entered in a ledger, the name, address, and price being stated and paid when demanded, deducting a commission, which may be agreed upon. The drawings, &c., by a little judgment could be arranged in the various styles, so as to be shown immediately.

During the continuance of the exhibition, the drawings and engravings might be kept in portfolios on a large table in the centre of the rooms, so that the public would have the additional advantage of inspecting and purchasing plans; and when the exhibition was terminated, they might be placed on the walls, and the public admitted free.

By the assistance of the county members of the society, or others that might be appointed as agents to collect and send up portfolios of drawings, &c., and, in return, have each subjects as they may require, thus keep up a correspondence and diffusion of knowledge all over the kingdom, and, in the course of time, establish similar exhibitions in the large towns.

And you, Sir, might, by lending your powerful aid in *THE BUILDER*, assist them by having a weekly head; say—

THE PORTFOLIO OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN.

Drawings and Prints received for Sale this week.

Drawings, &c.	Size.	In.	X	In.
Saffron Walden Church.	Here come little descriptions to follow, whether working drawings, coloured, outlines, &c.			

Prints, &c., similar to the above.

Such information would be very extensively circulated by the assistance of your excellent journal, and would be found useful.

Your most obedient servant,
WILLIAM J. SHORT.

2, Spring-terrace, Lambeth,
February 22nd, 1845.

THE PORTLAND VASE.

SIR,—As the Portland Vase has been lately brought into lamented notoriety, and you have noticed it with just execration of the vagabond sot who destroyed it, perhaps the following particulars, which will be found in "Granger's Letters and Miscellanies," may not be uninteresting in your journal. He, Granger, is describing the Portland Museum.

I am, Sir, &c., H. B. H.

"The most celebrated antique vase or sepulchral urn, from the Barberini cabinet, at Rome. It is the identical urn which contained the ashes of the Roman Emperor Alexander Severus, and his mother Mammaea, which was deposited in the earth about the year 235 after Christ, and was dug up by order of Pope Barberini, named Urban VIII., between the years 1623 and 1644. The materials of which it is

* The capital required would be very small—a table, portfolio, and a little furniture; and the whole might be managed by a clerk and boy, or porter. The clerk should be a draughtsman, well acquainted with the subjects he has to engrave; and if he be a man of talent, he might in the evenings, when the rooms were not otherwise engaged, give lectures to the younger members of the profession on the various styles and construction shown in the numerous drawings and engravings on the walls, with instructions as to the best mode of pursuing their studies; thus making them useful when even under sale; and, by means of the fees, increase his salary, making the situation worthy the acceptance of a man of character and ability.

* We hear that a committee is being formed for the purpose of paying some public compliment to this estimable gentleman in acknowledgement of his long career of extensive usefulness. We will gladly aid such a proposition.